

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANTIA 04319 251626Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----251642Z 040858 /47  
O 251555Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4966

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 4319

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND LUERS FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OVIP PFOR CI  
SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR  
CUAUS

REF: STATE 120393

1. AMBASSADOR CAUAS' REACTION TO YOUR NEWS WILL SEEM WARM AND FRIENDLY COMPARED TO THE EXPLOSION WE EXPECT IN SANTIAGO. THE RECEPTION OF CARDINAL SILVA, FREI AND ALMEYDA IN QUICK SUCCESSION BY A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER WILL CAUSE UN-RESTRAINED FURY HERE. ALL THREE VISITORS ARE ENEMIES--MORE THAN OPPONENTS--OF THIS REGIME. THE JUNTA'S INITIAL INSTINCT WILL BE FOR ANGRY RETALIATION; ITS SECONDARY INSTINCT WILL PROBABLY BE TO HUNKER DOWN; BUT FINALLY IT MAY LISTEN TO US.

2. APART FROM SIGNALLING TO THE JUNTA THAT THE US DOES NOT CONSIDER IT THE ONLY VIABLE POLITICAL FORCE IN CHILE, I ASSUME THE JUXTAPOSITION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S REPRESENTATIONS TO AMBASSADOR CAUAS IS DESIGNED TO IMPRESS UPON THE CHILEANS THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW THE LOCAL  
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HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. THE SIGNAL CAN HARDLY BE MISSED, AND MAY WELL FORCE THE GOC TO COME TO GRIPS WITH OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY.

3. HAVING GIVEN A STRONG SIGNAL, WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE MESSAGE TO CAUAS BE EQUALLY CLEAR AND DIRECT. ACCORDINGLY, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPUTY

SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO CAUAS:

-- THE UNITED STATES WAS GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THE MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE LATTER PART OF 1976 AND EARLY 1977. THE RELEASE OF 2700 POLITICAL PRISONERS THROUGHOUT 1976 AND THE FACT THAT THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF ILLEGAL DETENTIONS, TORTURE OR UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES DURING THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1977 WERE SEEN BY THE US AS THE BEGINNING OF A VERY POSITIVE PROCESS.

-- UNFORTUNATELY, THESE TRENDS HAVE NOT CONTINUED. IN APRIL AND MAY, WE HAVE RECEIVED CREDIBLE REPORTS THAT GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES HAVE AGAIN BEEN INVOLVED IN GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS (FOR DETAILS OF THIS RECIDIVISM, SEE SANTIAGO 4103).

-- THE US WANTS AND HOPES FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE. SUCH RELATIONS, HOWEVER, CAN ONLY BE BASED UPON OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE UNDERTAKEN IN SOLEMN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS TO UPHOLD.

-- SPECIFICALLY, THE US WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DEFINITIVE END TO ALL GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM WHICH WOULD, TO THE DEGREE POSSIBLE, GUARANTEE HUMAN RIGHTS  
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OBSERVANCE. AT A MINIMUM, SUCH A SYSTEM WOULD INVOLVE ELIMINATION OF THE STATE OF SIEGE, DUE PROCESS GUARANTEES AND ABOLITION OR CURTAILMENT OF DINA (THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE). EVENTUALLY, THE USG ANTICIPATES A RETURN TO PARTICIPATORY POLITICAL NORMS, A PROCESS THAT VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT HAVE STATED WILL OCCUR.

4. THIS IS STRONG MEDICINE WHICH THE JUNTA WILL FIND VERY DIFFICULT TO SWALLOW. WE ARE CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE DIRECT AND SPECIFIC WITH THE MILITARY MEN WITH WHOM WE ARE DEALING HERE. SUBTLETY AND INNUENDO WILL BE LOST ON THEM. THEY ARE ALREADY OUTRAGED AND THREATENED BY WASHINGTON'S RECEPTION OF THEIR ENEMIES. HAVING GONE THAT FAR, EMBASSY SANTIAGO RECOMMENDS THAT WE COVER THE REMAINING DISTANCE AND TELL THEM WITH SOME PRECISION WHAT OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES ARE.  
BOYATT

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